

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 02400 051348Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01

/147 W

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R 051042Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5042

INFO AMEMBASSY LONON

AMMBASSY ROME 1897

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 2400

E.O. 11652/ NA

TAGS: PINT, MT

SUBJ: GOZO CIVIC COUNCIL ABOLISHED

REF: VALLETTA 2228

1. AFTER FOUR DAYS OF INTERMITTEN PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATE, ABILL ABOLISHING THE GOZO CIVIC COUNCIL WAS
PASSED 28 TO 26.

2. NATIONALIST PARTY DEPUTY LEADER VINCENT TABONE,
WHO WAS BORN IN GOZO, LED OPPOSITION SIDE IN
DABATE, CLAIMING THAT THE BOUCOTT OF THE REFERENDUM
SHOWED THET THE GOZITANS WANTED TO RETAIN THE COUNCIL
BUT RJECTED THE REFERENDUM AND ITS "LOADED" QUESTION.
HE MAINTAINED THAT THE BOYCOTT WAS A POLITICAL DEFEAT
FOR LABOR, AND SAID THAT GOM FEARED NEW ELECTIONS TO
THE COUNCIL BECAUSE IT WOULD SHOW HOW MUCH THE
GOZITANS REGRETTED INCREASING THER VOTES FOR LABOR
IN 1971 ELECTIONS. HE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF
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PAGE 02 VALLET 02400 051348Z

EXERCISING "MALTESE COLONIALISM" OVER GOZO.

3. ABOLITION OF THE GOZO COUNCIL HAS RESULTED IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT REVIVING THE GOZO PARTY, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE SINCE THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS OF 1950. PRIOR TO THAT ELECTION, GOZO HAD SIX PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, THREE FOR THE GOZO PARTY AND THREE FOR THE JONES PARTY. MOST, IF NOT ALL, LEADERS OF THESE PARTIES HAVE SINCE DIED. AS GOZITANS ARE LARGELY INCLINED TO BE CONSERVATIVE, ANY SUCH PARTY WOULD DRAW MORE NATIONALIST THAN LABOR VOTES. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SUCH A PARTY WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE NATIONALISTS. THE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE COUNCIL WAS PROBABLY A NET LOSS FOR LABOR SUPPORTERS IN GOZO, DESPITE THE RELATIVELY LARGE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM GOM HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT IN THE SISTER ISLAND. GETZ

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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